

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-9 are pending. Claim 1 has been amended. Claim 2 is canceled. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1 and 3-9 are pending.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that claims 2 and 4-8 will be allowed if rewritten into independent form, including the limitations of the base claim (claim 1) and any intervening claims. In response, Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the limitation of the allowed claim 2. Claim 1, as amended, is therefore allowable. Claim 2 is canceled. Applicant submits that claims 3 and 9 are also allowable because they are dependent from the allowable claim 1. Claims 4-8 are likewise allowable because their base claim (claim 3) is allowable.

Claims 1, 3 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Zhaoyouyi (CN 1227780) in view of Halls (U.S. Patent No. 3,901,107). Applicant submits that, in view of the above amendment, this ground of rejection becomes moot. However, Applicant reserves the right to pursue the canceled subject matter in one or more continuation applications.

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1 and 3-9 are in condition for allowance.

The Director is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090.

A good faith effort has been made to place this application in condition for allowance. However, should any further issue require attention prior to allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at (206) 622-4900 to resolve the same.

Respectfully submitted,

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Application No. 10/543,032  
Reply to Office Action dated August 7, 2006

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